GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5466
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
HAZARDOUS MERCURY WASTE IN THERMOMETER FACTORY
KAILASH MEGHWAL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Lever Limited generated hazardous mercury waste in itsthermometer factory in Tamil Nadu for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against the company during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) & (b): The thermometer factory of M/S Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL) in Tamil Nadu generated 8.7 and 1.8 tons of mercury contaminated wastes during the years 2000 & 2001 respectively. The thermometer factory has since been closed down with effect from 8.3.2001.

(c) & (d): After detailed examination in consultation with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and also with the Government of United States of America (USA), Government has allowed M/S Hindustan Lever Limitedto export the mercury contaminated waste to USA for recovery of mercury and final disposal of the waste as per the provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal & the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989/2000. The entire expenditure in this regard will be borne by HLL.Further, HLL has also been asked to undertake remediation of the mercury contaminated site(s) in Tamil Nadu.

(e) : Does not arise.